Battalions, release of arms and ammunition and other security related equipment on priority basis. In addition, 17 Police Station areas in Tripura have been declared as disturbed under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in order to take more effective action against insurgent elements.

[Translation]

Policing in Hilly Districts in U.P.

1623. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to the police in rural areas of the hilly districts in UP is done by the 'Patwaris' working under the Revenue Department;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Patwari cadre has boycotted the policing work for the last one year on the demand of pay, allowances, uniform and arms equal to the regular police personnel;

(c) whether due to boycott of policing work by the Patwaris, many cases of criminal nature are pending and the law and order situation is deteriorating; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to end the boycott by the Patwaris ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Ban on Grazing

1624. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware that Sikkim Government has banned grazing in the forest areas;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to ban grazing in all the forest areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to ban grazing in all the forest areas of the country. However, the National Forests Policy, 1988 *inter-alia* envisages that grazing in forest areas should be regulated with the involvement of the community. Special conservation areas, young plantations and regeneration areas should be fully protected from grazing. National Policy also provides for levying of adequate grazing fees to discourage people in forest areas from maintaining large herds of non-essential livestock.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Bhopal Gas Leakage Disaster

1625. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending in the court of Commissioner, Gas Relief, Bhopal, quarter-wise;

(b) the number of new cases filed in the office of the Commissioner during 1996-97 along with the number of cases disposed of, month-wise;

(c) whether appointment of the Hon'ble Justice as Commissioner has been made on full time or part time basis; and

(d) the location of the headquarter of the Commissioner, Gas Relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The number of cases pending in the Court of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal gas tragedy is as follows :

Category	Pending more than 3 months	Pending more than 6 months	Pending more than 9 months	Pending more than 12 months	Total
01 (Personal injury)	77	34	259	187	557
04 (Death)	64	450	250	21	785

(b) (i) The number of cases filed in the Court of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas tragedy in the year 1996-97 is as follows :

Year	Category	
	01 (personal injury)	04 (death)
1996	917	434
1997 (upto Feb. '97)	52	40

(ii) Month-wise disposal of the cases is as follows :

Year	Month	Category	
		01	04
1996	January	12	09
	February	36	13
	March	19	14
	April	34	23
	May	30	12
	June	58	01
	July	22	24
	August	15	14
	September	—	—
	October	11	15
	November	09	33
	December	07	12
1997	January	09	23
	February	12	10

(c) and (d) A sitting Judge of the Indore Bench of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh is holding concurrent charge as Welfare Commissioner at Bhopal.

[English]

Sugar Recovery

1626. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether any exercise has been undertaken by the Government to determine the actual percentage of sugar recovery from sugarcane in different identified regions of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The sugar factories situated in the various regions of the country furnish to the Directorate of Sugar their actual working results including recovery of sugar % cane. Based on this the recovery of sugar % cane for each region/zone is being determined.

(b) A Statement showing zone-wise recovery of sugar % cane during the season 1995-96 is enclosed.

Statement

Zonewise Recovery of Sugar % Cane for the Season 1995-96 (Provisional)

Sl. No.	States	Recovery of Sugar % Cane
1.	Punjab	8.70
2.	Haryana	8.35
3.	Rajasthan	8.90
4.	West U.P.	8.92
5.	Central U.P.	8.72
6.	East U.P.	8.42
7.	Madhya Pradesh	9.10
8.	South Gujarat	10.63
9.	Saurashtra	9.17
10.	South Maharashtra	11.33
11.	North Maharashtra	9.49
12.	Central Maharashtra	10.32
13.	North Bihar	8.82
14.	South Bihar	Factories did not work
15.	Assam	8.33
16.	Orissa	8.81
17.	West Bengal	6.04
18.	Nagaland	6.87
19.	Andhra Pradesh	9.54
20.	Karnataka	9.81
21.	Tamil Nadu	8.34
22.	Pondicherry	8.74
23.	Kerala	8.75
24.	Goa	10.05
	All India	9.43